Midhope, 24 March. 1887.

Hon. D.M. Fox.
Superintendent, U.S. Mint,

Sir, While there is so much activity in Mint affairs, I regret that Dr. Leverhardt reports, that my indisposition, of the presence of which I have been conscious for some time past, is entirely due to overwork, with mental anxiety, and that I am bound, with due regard to health, to spend a quiet week at home. The constantly recurring questions of storage of bullion, under difficulties of location and risk in handling, of converting it into coin in huge masses, $90 000 daily, (say some 6000 lbs, or 3 tons) — these and other collateral questions & circumstances act with a constant pressure on the mind & body, rather enfeebling, both by their unbroken, daily continuance, and no prospect

of diminution. I suppose therefore that Dr Gerhardt is right, and that I must be obedient to his orders for the time passing, and be as active in rest for a week, as I have been in work for a long time. I hope that such rest may work its curative prospect, — for if it do not, — then another, one other, & only one is open to my choice, — to retire, as gracefully as I know how, altogether from the public service. — and dry up into quiet dust for the remainder of my life, which you know cannot be long. I think that with Mr Boyd and Dr Mackie at their posts of calculation and distribution, with the several heads, each in his several, & well allotted place, as weighers, executors of orders, &c. especially Price, Lamb, W. & Geo. Summers, &c. — with these, I think I can rest as quietly here as if I were daily visiting the Mint.

I have preferred jotting down thoughts as they occur to me, without preliminary hard study, as the manner of writing sufficiently proves, - so as to avoid unnecessary mental application, & reap the benefit of a week's repose. And now, lest you should think me too obtrusive of my thoughts on your time, - hard to spare I know, - I will simply wish you a pleasant week's repose from my pertinacious intrusions, with the promise that I will be more intrusive on my return !!

I trust you will pardon my avoidance of an Official Document, with its Seal & ribbon, for a simple chat, & trusting this, I sign myself as a captive women lately released from thraldom, & wishing you a pleasant time until my return, and then ——

very truly yours
Ian C Booth

RG104 E-1 Box 144 Feb-Mar 1887

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U. S. Mint
Phila. Mch 24. 87

Prof Booth.
Dr. 2 R.

Resp.

March 24. 1887

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 144

Midhope
March 24, 1887

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Superintendent, U.S. Mint,

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Very Truly Yours,
Jas. C. Booth